

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 20612 211309Z

46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

COME-00 FRB-01 /087 W

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R 211035Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1037

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 20612

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS ABOUT AIT

1. IN A NEWS CONFERENCE HE HELD ON JULY 21, GEN. THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THAILAND WILL HAVE TO BUY THE AIT FOR PROBABLY AS MUCH AS 900 MILLION BAHT. HE STATED THAT IT IS DEFINITE THAT THE U.S. CANNOT GIVE IT TO THAILAND GRATIS OR AT A SPECIAL "FRIENDSHIP" PRICE. HOW THE PAYMENT WILL BE MADE DEPENDS ON THE THAIS AND ANY CONCESSIONS OBTAINED FROM THE U.S.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A SENIOR THAI OFFICIAL HAS PUBLICLY MENTIONED 900 MILLION BAHT AS THE PROBABLE COST OF THE AIT. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY IS THE RESULT OF AN AP STORY BY FRED S. HOFFMAN PUBLISHED IN THE JULY 20 ENGLISH LANGUAGE BANGKOK POST WHICH CITED A PENTAGON SOURCE FOR THE INFORMATION THAT THE THAIS ARE EXPECTED TO PAY ABOUT \$45 MILLION US FOR THE AIT.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMMUNITION, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D760280-0835  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 25 FEB 2004  
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**Subject:** DEFENSE MINISTER SPEAKS ABOUT AIT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, TH, (THAWIT SENIWONG NA AYUTTHAYA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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